



Holyoke Historical Commission (HHC)
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 7, 2019

Attendance: Richard Ahlstrom (Chairperson), Paola Ferrario, Joe Paul, Frances Welson, Chris Gauthier, James Sheehan **Municipal Staff:** Ben Murphy (OPED) **Others Present:** Michael Falcetti (Soldier's Memorial Commission), Jude Stall (Arrow Properties), Maureen Costello (Friends of the Holyoke Merry-go-round, Inc)

1. **Call to Order** – Richard Ahlstrom called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and stated that the meeting was being recorded.

2. **Review of September 9, 2019 Minutes**

A motion was made by James Sheehan and seconded by Christopher Gauthier to accept the minutes from September 9, 2019, as amended. All were in favor.

3. **Public Participation** – No public participation

4. **Community Preservation Act (CPA)**

a. **Reviewing CPA Applications for Historic Significance**

Ben Murphy stated that there were 10 applicants for CPA historic preservation funding. The following three applicants are present to ask the Commission to determine that their project property is on the Massachusetts Register of Historic Places or is historically significant to Holyoke.

- Lady Liberty, Veterans Park – Michael Falcetti stated that he applied for CPA historical preservation funds to complete an existing conditions study and scope of work to refurbish Lady Liberty in Veterans Park.

A motion was made by James Sheehan and seconded by Paola Ferrario to determine that Lady Liberty is a contributing historic resource listed on the Massachusetts Register of Historic Places. The motion carried.

- 274-276 High Street – Jude Stull stated that he applied, for the owner of 274-276 High Street, for CPA historical preservation funds to restore the facade, windows, and cornices at 274-276 High Street. *A motion was made by Frances Welson and seconded by Joe Paul to determined that 274-276 High Street is a contributing historic resource listed on the Massachusetts Register of Historic Places. James Sheehan abstained from the vote. The motion carried 5-1.*

- Holyoke Merry-Go-Round, Appleton Street – Maureen Costello stated that she applied for CPA historical preservation funds to restore 21 carousel horses and two carousel carriages. *A motion was made by Joe Paul and seconded by Frances Welson to determine that the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round is a historic resource that is significant in the history, archeology, architecture or culture of Holyoke. The motion carried.*

b. **State Register of Historic Places**

Ben Murphy presented the complete list of properties on the State Register of Historic Places in Holyoke and asked the Commission if they would like to approve the list annually to make the CPA eligibility determination process simpler. The Commissioners agreed to approve the list annually but want any properties listed as non-contributing to still present to the Commission for determination of eligibility. Ben Murphy indicated that he would work on a policy and present it to the Commission at the next meeting.

5. MHC Survey & Planning Grant

Ben Murphy stated a request for quotes went out to bid for the Main Street Corridor Survey Grant and two proposals were received. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) and Zachary Violette submitted proposals. Mr. Murphy noted that a Selection Committee made up of Frances Welson, Christopher Gauthier, Alicia Zoeller, and Ben Murphy decided to choose Zachary Violette's proposal. The Committee felt that his proposal was superior to the one received from PVPC. The City is moving forward with contracting with Mr. Violette for the project.

6. Demolition Delay Ordinance

Ben Murphy stated that the Problem Properties Group (PPG) meets the second Thursday of every month. Frances Welson stated that she will communicate with Richard Ahlstrom to discuss next steps for a meeting with department heads so that they may prepare to present at a future PPG meeting.

7. Old Business -- There was no old business to come before the Commission.

8. New Business -- There was no new business to come before the Commission.

9. Next Meeting -- November 13, 2019

10. Adjourn

At 8:04 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion was made by Frances Welson and seconded by James Sheehan to adjourn the meeting at. The motion carried.

Sincerely,

**Richard Ahlstrom, Chairperson
Holyoke Historical Commission**